

An Additional New Race of *Argyrocupha malagrida* (Wallengren) (Lep.: Lycaenidae)

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No. 32

The nominate race of the above species is known only from a few localities on the western side of the Cape Peninsula, while another race from the Paarl and Paarde Berg Mountains was described by the first author in 1967, under the name of *Phasis malagrida paarlensis* (*Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.*, **79**, No. 11). The present race, which was discovered at a high elevation and some 80 miles N.N.E. of the Paarde Berg, is placed under the new generic name of *Argyrocupha* Tite and Dickson, which has been erected solely for the distinctive species *malagrida* (*vide* "The Genus *Aloeides* and allied Genera (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae)", 1973, *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Ent.)*, **29**, No. 5).

Argyrocupha malagrida cedrusmontana supsp. nov.

A brightly coloured race, with the very deep brownish-black borders on the upperside bounding the rich orange-red ground-colour, wide; light marking of underside silvery-white without, or with less of, the slight golden tone which is present, particularly, in *Arg. malagrida paarlensis*.

Male, Upperside:

Orange-red in all wings more extensively and clearly developed than in nominate race, but rather less so than in *paarlensis* owing to the dark distal borders being wider, especially in the forewings, than in the latter race.

Forewing: As in the case of *paarlensis*, no dark veining apparent in orange-red field—this being present in some specimens of nominate race.

Hindwing: Dark veining at least partly developed in most specimens—more often absent altogether in *paarlensis* but as a rule well developed in nominate *malagrida*. Inner edge of distal dark border less even than in *paarlensis*, being almost consistently crenulate in all specimens and thus much as in nominate race. Distal margins less even than in either of the other two races, with a more pronounced dark projection at the end of vein 2 and the anal-angular projection itself more produced.

Light divisions in cilia of all wings generally very clearly developed, and practically pure white—against the frequent off-white tint in the other two races, especially in examples of *paarlensis*.

Underside:

Forewing: Clarity of light markings in general and the submarginal dark marking, at least equal to that of nominate race and not less clear, as is usual in *paarlensis*.

Hindwing: Irregular discal series of light markings less distinct and more broken superiorly, above vein 3, than in

nominate race—as well as in comparison with most specimens of *paarlensis*. Light sagittate markings between discal series and margin, tending to be more acute than in either of the other two races.

Light spaces in cilia of all wings inclined to be of a purer white than in nominate *malagrida*, and definitely more so than in *paarlensis*.

Length of forewing: 12.5-15.75mm. (14.25mm. in holotype).

Female, Upperside:

Much as in male, as regards the female allotype, but upper margin of orange-red area in forewing less clear-cut and inner portion of that of hindwing noticeably suffused with dark scaling; female paratype with the ground-colour more ochreous-orange and much more extensive, and dark borders consequently narrower.

Light divisions of cilia in all wings more white than in, at least, *paarlensis*.

Underside:

Similar to that of male but, in the well marked allotype, silvery-white marking of hindwing, from base up to and including discal series, very well developed and prominent; in female allotype, the corresponding marking far less fully developed, and underside, in some parts, also less darkly marked.

Length of forewing: 15.5-16.5mm. (the latter measurement, that of allotype).

Body and ancillary parts resembling closely those of the other two races of *malagrida*.

This is, on the whole, a comparatively large race—but with a few of the males certainly small specimens. The forewings of the males normally have the distal margin slightly concave between veins 2 and 4. In a fair proportion of specimens the main light marking of the hindwing underside is more attenuated than in the other races of this butterfly.

Male Holotype, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE: Langberg, Cedarberg Mtns., 18.ii.1973 (R. D. Stephen); presented by R. D. Stephen to Transvaal Museum.

Female Allotype, W. CAPE PROVINCE: data as for holotype (F. Honiball); also allocation of specimen.

Paratype in Coll. British Museum (Nat. Hist.): as holotype, 1 ♂ (R. D. Stephen); British Museum Reg. No. Rh.17351.

Paratype in Coll. National Museum of Rhodesia, Bulawayo: as holotype, 1 ♂ (R.D.S.).

Paratypes in Coll. F. Honiball: as holotype, 6 ♂♂ (F.H.).

Paratypes in Coll. R. D. Stephen: as holotype, 5 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (R.D.S.).

Paratype in Coll. C.G.C.D.: as holotype, 1 ♀ (R.D.S.).

Paratype in Coll. Dr. J. Kaplan: as holotype, 1 ♂ (R.D.S.).

Paratype in Coll. D. A. Swanepoel: as holotype, 1 ♂ (R.D.S.).

In preparations of the male genitalia, no very marked difference has been found between those of the taxa concerned

PLATE VI

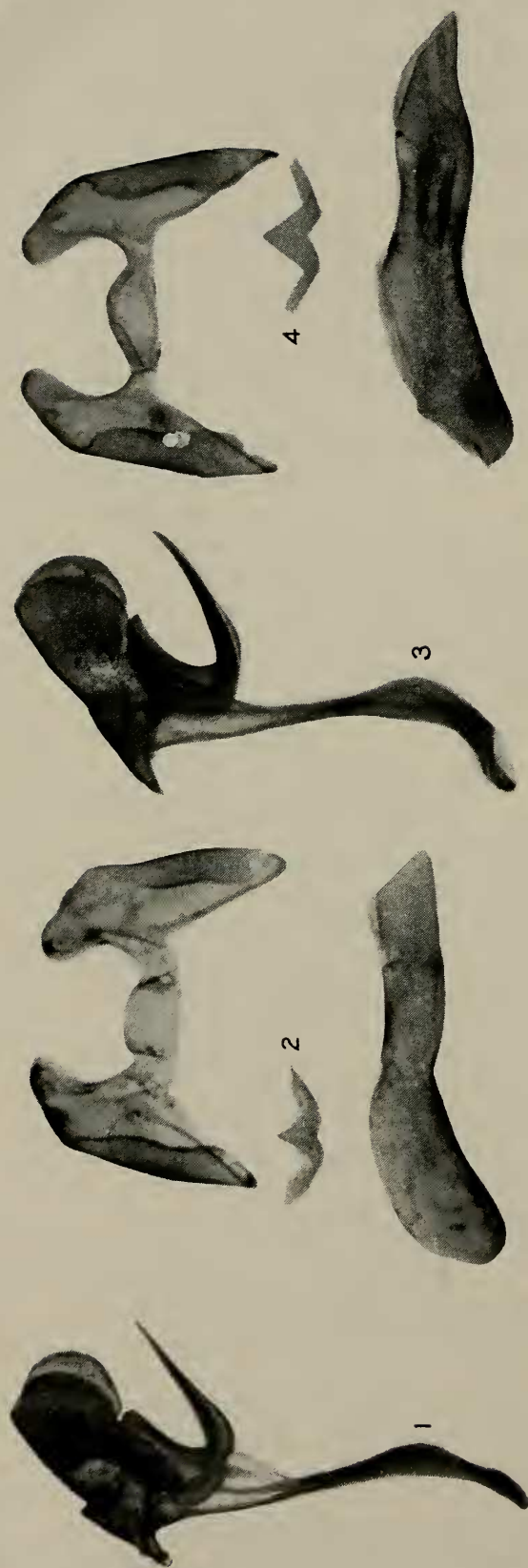


Photo: H.N. Wykeham.

Genitalia of two races of *Argyrocupha malagrida* (Wallengren)

Figs. 1-2: ♂ Genitalia of *Argyrocupha malagrida paarlensis* (Dickson) (Paarl Mtn., C.P. (R. D. Stephen)).

Figs. 3-4: ♂ Genitalia of *Arg. malagrida cedrusmontana* supsp. nov. (Cedarberg, C.P. (F. Honiball)).

Sets of figs. 1-2 and 3-4, represent in each case: basic portion of structure (tegumen, uncus, etc.), with falces intact but valves and aedeagus removed; valves spread out and mounted under very slight pressure; juxta, fully compressed; aedeagus, under virtually no pressure.

Figures 25 times natural size